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INFORM CHARGE

SUBJ: US/THAI MILITARY CONTINGENCY PLAN

1. NOVEMBER 8 WASHINGTON POST CARRIED WARREN UNNA
STORY ON PAGE A-5. FULL TEXT GIVEN BELOW; OUR COMMENTS
TO FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

QUOTE FULBRIGHT UNIT SHOWN THAI PLAN; CHAIRMAN LIKENS IT
TO A TREATY. THE PENTAGON FINALLY GAVE IN TO THE SENATE
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE YESTERDAY, SENDING OVER
COPIES OF THE SECRET 1965 PLAN FOR MILITARY
SUPPORT OF THAILAND.

2. QUOTE WE SAW IT, WENT OVER IT AND THERE WERE REALLY
NO SURPRISES, UNQUOTE SEN J. W. FULBRIGHT (D-ARK),
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAID ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS HE HAD
SOUGHT FOR EIGHT MONTHS.

3. THE PENTAGON CONTENDS THE MEMO REPRESENTS A QUOTE
CONTINGENCY UNQUOTE PLAN FOR THE USE OF U.S. TROOPS

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TO HELP THE THAI GOVT RESIST EXTERNAL COMMUNIST AGGRESSION. THE PLAN WOULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT ONLY IF THE U.S. SHOULD DECIDE SUCH SUPPORT WAS NECESSARY. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MELVIN R. LAIRD HAS SAID HE DOES NOT FAVOR THE PLAN AND HAS NO INTENTION OF EVER IMPLEMENTING IT.

4. BUT FULBRIGHT SAID YESTERDAY THAT AFTER SEEING THE PLAN HE WAS INCLINED TO LOOK UPON IT AS A U.S. COMMITMENT. AS SUCH, HE SAID, THE PLAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE FOR ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT IN THE SAME MANNER AS A TREATY.

5. MEMO TO SPAIN. FULBRIGHT LIKENED THE DOCUMENT TO LAST YEAR'S PENTAGON MEMO ASSURING SPAIN THAT THE PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS WAS A BETTER GUARANTEE OF SPAIN'S DEFENSE THAN ANY WRITTEN COMMITMENT.

6. QUOTE THE THAIS SAID IT WAS NO QUOTE COMMITMENT UNQUOTE BUT I'M QUITE SURE THAT BEFORE ALL THIS PUBLICITY THEY THOUGHT IT INDEED WAS A COMMITMENT. I THINK IT COMPRISED MORE OF A TREATY THAN JUST A QUOTE CONTINGENCY PLAN UNQUOTE FULBRIGHT SAID.

7. SEN. FRANK CHURCH (D-IDAHO), A COMMITTEE MEMBER SAID HE THOUGHT THE PENTAGON'S DECISION TO GIVE IN TO PERSISTENT COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR THE DOCUMENT QUOTE REAFFIRMS THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE TO BE FULLY INFORMED ON MATTERS THAT COULD VITALLY AFFECT THE COUNTRY ABROAD. UNQUOTE

8. THE PENTAGON SENT MARINE BRIG. GEN. J. E. GLICK, FROM THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, AND JACK STEMLER, SECRETARY LAIRD'S SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON ASSISTANT, TO BRING THE DOCUMENT OVER TO A CLOSED-DOOR, UNANNOUNCED COMMITTEE HEARING.

9. FULBRIGHT SAID AFTERWARDS THAT HE HADN'T ASKED TO KEEP A COPY OF THE MEMO AND INDICATED HIS FEUD WITH LAIRD WAS OVER. QUOTE LAIRD, AS THE SECRETARY, JUDGED QUITE CORRECTLY THERE WAS NO POINT IN CONTINUING THIS ATTITUDE, UNQUOTE FULBRIGHT SAID.

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10. HE THAI MEMORANDUM WAS NEGOTIATED DURING THE
JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION, AND FULBRIGHT HAS NEVER ACCUSED
LAIRD OF ANY ROLE IN IT. BUT HE HAS INSISTED THAT THE
SENATE SHOULD BE CONSULTED ON COMMITTING U.S. TROOPS
ABROAD. END QUOTE.
JOHNSON

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